

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
transmitting data to an application programming interface identifying a storage object;  
and  
receiving, from the application programming interface, a freeze list with one or more  
freeze methods appropriate for freezing the storage object, wherein each freeze  
method includes a measure of quiesce strength, wherein the measure of quiesce  
strength is indicative of a predicted level of risk of data inconsistency or deadlock  
associated with the freeze method.
2. Cancelled.
3. (Original) A computer-readable medium having program code which, when executed on  
a computer, implements the method of claim 1.
4. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
transmitting data to an application programming interface identifying a storage object;  
receiving a freeze list with one or more freeze methods appropriate for quiescing the  
storage object from the application programming interface, wherein each freeze  
method includes a measure of quiesce strength, wherein the measure of quiesce  
strength is indicative of a predicted level of risk of data inconsistency or deadlock  
associated with the freeze method;  
selecting one of the freeze methods; and  
issuing a command to the application programming interface to execute the freeze  
method.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein selecting is a function of quiesce  
strength.
6. (Original) A computer-readable medium having program code which, when executed on  
a computer, implements the method of claim 4.

7. (Currently Amended) An application program interface that operates with an application to generate frozen images of a storage object, the interface comprising:

means for receiving data identifying a storage object;

means for returning a freeze list with one or more freeze methods appropriate for freezing the storage object, wherein each freeze method includes a measure of quiesce strength, wherein the measure of quiesce strength is indicative of a predicted level of risk of data inconsistency or deadlock associated with the freeze method;

means for receiving a selected freeze method associated with the storage object; and

means for returning a frozen image as a function of the selected freeze method.

8. (Original) The application program interface of claim 7, wherein the means for receiving data identifying a storage object includes a call which identifies the storage object and provides a list of preferences.

9. (Currently Amended) An application program interface that operates with an application to generate frozen images of a storage object, the interface comprising:

means for receiving data identifying a storage object; and

means for returning a frozen image of the storage object, wherein the means for returning a frozen image includes means for

transmitting a freeze list having one or more freeze methods appropriate

for freezing the storage object, wherein each freeze method

includes a measure of quiesce strength, wherein the measure of

quiesce strength is indicative of a predicted level of risk of data

inconsistency or deadlock associated with the freeze method, and

transmitting a frozen image representative of the storage object.

10. (Original) The application program interface of claim 9, wherein the means for receiving data identifying a storage object includes a call which identifies the storage object and provides a list of preferences.

11. (Currently Amended) An application program interface for controlling formation of a frozen image of a storage object, the interface comprising:

a storage object identifier, wherein the storage object identifier identifies the storage object;

a freeze list data structure, wherein the freeze list data structure stores data representing one or more freeze methods appropriate for freezing the storage object;

a freeze method identifier, wherein the freeze method identifier identifies a selected freeze method from the one or more freeze methods, wherein each freeze method includes a measure of quiesce strength, wherein the measure of quiesce strength is indicative of a predicted level of risk of data inconsistency or deadlock associated with the freeze method; and

a data structure for returning a frozen image corresponding to the selected freeze method.

12. (Original) The application program interface of claim 11, wherein the storage object identifier is transferred within a call to the application program interface.

13. (Currently Amended) An application program interface for controlling quiescing of a storage object, the interface comprising:

a storage object identifier, wherein the storage object identifier identifies the storage object;

a quiesce data structure, wherein the quiesce data structure stores data representing one or more quiesce methods appropriate for quiescing the storage object, wherein each quiesce method includes a measure of quiesce strength, wherein the measure of quiesce strength is indicative of a predicted level of risk of data inconsistency or deadlock associated with the quiesce method; and

a quiesce method identifier, wherein the quiesce method identifier identifies a selected quiesce method from the one or more quiesce methods.

14. (Original) The application program interface of claim 13, wherein the application program interface transmits a signal on completion of storage object quiesce.

15. (Original) The application program interface of claim 13, wherein the storage object identifier is transferred within a call to the application program interface.

16. (Currently Amended) An application program interface for controlling quiescing of a storage object, the interface comprising:

means for receiving data identifying a storage object;

means for transmitting a quiesce list having one or more quiesce methods appropriate for quiescing the storage object, wherein each quiesce method includes a measure of quiesce strength, wherein the measure of quiesce strength is indicative of a predicted level of risk of data inconsistency or deadlock associated with the quiesce method; and

means for returning an indication that the storage object is quiesced.

17. (Original) The application program interface of claim 16, wherein the means for receiving data identifying a storage object includes a call which identifies the storage object and provides a list of preferences.

18. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

transmitting data to an application programming interface identifying a storage object;  
and

receiving a quiesce list with one or more quiesce methods appropriate for quiescing the storage object from the application programming interface, wherein each quiesce method includes a measure of quiesce strength, wherein the measure of quiesce

strength is indicative of a predicted level of risk of data inconsistency or deadlock associated with the quiesce method.

19. Cancelled.

20. (Original) A computer-readable medium having program code which, when executed on a computer, implements the method of claim 18.